



Ø BEAT



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COLORADO

M A R C H 1 9 7 8

SPECIAL--ANNOUNCEMENT--IMPORTANT--DO NOT SKIM THIS--MEETING NOTICE: The Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association will meet this month on March 8 at Hewlett Packard, 1900 Garden of the Gods Road. Park in the lot in front of the east-most building. Everyone must arrive by 7:25 pm due to the need to be escorted through the facilities. There will be a business meeting and then a tour and equipment fair. So don't miss it! And don't be late--don't want any disappointment. Talk-in on .52. Such a deal!

SWAP FEST: It's that time again! Sunday, March 19 will see the Annual PPRAA Swap Fest. It will be at the same place as last year--Hangar 11 at Peterson Field--same time--9am to 2pm. This year, along with the usual refreshment stand and bake sale, there will be a flea market of general (un-ham-type) stuff, which will make it more of a family affair and more interesting to all who come. So do. Talk-in on 16/76 and/or ask for directions at the main gate, off of US 24.

VHF AND UHF RE-DEFINED: On January 21 and 22 a group of hams in the Colorado Springs area attempted to re-define VHF and UHF, and did a pretty good job of it.

Some Very Happy Fellows got together at Ray WØWYZ's QTH to see how many non-repeater contacts could be gathered in the AC bands, as Ray calls them--above 50 MHz. The event was the VHF Sweepstakes, and from early Saturday morning until late Sunday evening there was a lot of hustle and bustle.

Among the participants were Doug WBØMHP with his old, tired Knight TR-106 ancient modulation six meter rig, which netted the group several local six meter contacts. A welcome sight was Dennis WBØWDF's neat, new six meter rig--sideband and all.

On two meters we had SSB and CW with a half-a-kilowatt, thanks to Dave WBØSDW's rig and Ray's amplifier. We also had a variety of FM gear to snag the FM contacts. Kansas and New Mexico were the highlight of the weekend as it gave us three sections, counting Colorado, on two meters.

(Don't miss next page)

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---YLS, SEE PAGE 4---

(MAKE SURE YOU READ THIS WHOLE PAGE)

P P R A A D I R E C T O R S

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The PPRAA meets at 7:30pm on the Second Wednesday of each month in the Security Savings and Loan Building, East Platte at Union Blvd.

VHF AND UHF cond: Dave WDØDLY, Dave WBØNLA (a seasonal transplant from Center, CO), Gordy WBØTIC, Marc WBØTLQ, and Steve WBØTLP were very helpful, doing everything from stirring the Sloppy Joes to taking down Ray's XYL's TV antenna so a ten-element two meter beam could be installed. BOY, was she surprised! They were also busy with mics and keys.

On the 220 MHz band we made a contact from the southwest corner of Ray's shack to the northeast corner of Ray's shack. Since all we had was Dave WØMBZ's 220 MHz receiver and Mike KØTER's converter, a futile attempt was made to modify a couple of 220 MHz TV transmitters. Of course we had to try it out, so Mike, equipped with converter and modified transmitter, headed for his shack for a contact. Since Mike didn't have a 220 antenna, he tried to load his two meter antenna and a 432 beam, but after three trips up and down his tower he finally assembled one--however, still no contact.

Since 220 MHz didn't seem to treat us so well, we thought we'd try something easier!?!?!? 1296 MHz! Yup. About noon Sunday the converting process began on an old APX-6. (Navy guys sure know what that is!) Well, time got the best of us there, because the modifications were mostly mechanical and have you ever seen a bunch of hams try to be plumbers?

So next was 432 MHz, and we did ok there, about eight contacts. Barry W8LWN, whose initial comments a month or so ago got us all fired up, took care of the 432 equipment.

So you're wondering when we re-defined UHF. Well, with 97 contacts on 50 MHz and above, and three states on two meters, UHF can only mean Unusual Heap of Fun for all during the weekend. So for all those wondering what the next one is going to be like, plan on joining in next June.

ANOTHER ZERO BEAT?? Yes. Through former member Harlan Park WB7TZT (WAØYVS to us) who is now in Washington state, we have been found out by the Victoria Short Wave Club (founded 1929) and the editor of their Zero Beat, Vince Hlavac. So although we are sadly outclassed by these folks in British Columbia, we will be trading papers. Be seeing you, Vince.

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ATTENTION YLs: If you skip over the rest of this issue, please read this! Hopefully you got the notice we passed out at the last meeting, but just in case you didn't, here are a few of the details on the Swapfest March 19 at Pete Field.

The YL Committee is planning the refreshment table and bake sale for all the hungry hams that day, and we still need lots of help. If you can give us a hand with preparing or selling refreshments, or providing baked goods, please let us know as soon as possible. You can call Cheri Moloney at 599-9605 (anytime), Joanne Roth at 574-6673 (anytime), or Dianne Uberecken at 471-7134 (evenings) to let us know

what you can do, or to get more information. We'll be spared a lot of time on the phone if you'll get in touch with us now.

Also, don't forget our flea-market bazaar! Instead of staying home this year, gather up your craft and hobby projects and small garage sale items. Come along to the Swapfest! A little extra pocket money never hurts, and we'll have a lot of fun besides. You may also get the chance to put names and faces with those voices and call letters you hear so often. There's plenty of room, so bring your contributions and help us fill it up!

(OMs--If the YLs in your house didn't see this, please show it to them.)

MEETING MINUTES: WØWYZ, Ray Uberecken opened the monthly meeting of the PPRAA February 8, 1978 at 7:35 pm in the basement of the Security Savings and Loan Building. The January minutes were unanimously accepted by the membership as printed in Zero Beat. WBØPNX, Treasurer, gave a balance of \$735.50.

Committee Reports: EC--WØRNT and WBØTIC reported for WBØTIB that advanced CPR classes would be given if ten people were interested. WØRNT reported that he and the Sheriff's office were trying to develop an "Emergency Communications" card for members of SERVCOM. WBØSDW showed a "proof" sample of the card. WBØTIC described the proceedings of the "Simulated Emergency Test" held on February 5. The SET was held under the direction of WBØTIB. Zero Beat--WØWYZ, deadline is 1 March for articles to be printed in the March issue. Picnic--The Annual PPRAA Summer picnic is scheduled for 13 August. The site is, as yet, not selected, but it is hoped it will be in the mountains again. Swapfest--K6DBR announced that the swapfest would be held in Hangar 11 at Peterson AFB on March 19. They are hoping for the largest event in the state. Over 1000 flyers were being prepared and the door prizes were being arranged for.

Activities--WBØYKH indicated the Novice Round-up was now in progress--February 3-12. Field Day--The committee, headed by KØTER, was going to start specific planning for the last weekend in June. It would probably be held this year at KØROL's mountain cabin. CCARC--WØRNT stated work was progressing on the Colorado Ham Directory. Work was beginning on a Colorado Hamfest for this summer. He also discussed the probability of initiating a two meter frequency coordinator committee to set up regulations or policies relating to new repeaters in the future. YLs--Cheri Moloney briefed the membership on the bake sale to be held in conjunction with the swapfest. (Con'd next page).

MINUTES con'd: Education--WBØTIC presented the class schedules and instructors for the remainder of the upgrading classes.

Announcements: The monthly transmitter hunt would be 12 February at Channel Cat, 1 pm. Hammy Award was presented to WBØTLP, Steve DeVries.

New Business: WBØPAJ inquired as to the possibility of setting up a communications committee for a large track meet to be held this summer, involving the Olympic trainees. WBØPAJ Accepted chairmanship of the group to be organized.

Program: Homebrew night. WØWYZ opened the program with a very entertaining poem by his wife. I didn't catch the title but I think it was "Ode to a Ham," or "Frustration in a Home-brewery." Projects presented were a 1-kw linear (KØTER), 80-10m QRP Transmitter (WBØTLP), Electronic Keyer and Power Supply (WBØKSW), Attenuator and Q multiplier (WBØMHP), two meter synthesized rig (ØRNT), six meter transverter (WØWYZ), QRP CW transmitter (WBØWHZ), and a filter of some sort [I can't read Gordy's writing] (WBØSDW).

--Gordy Denno WBØTIC, Secretary

I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN surprised (tho it was a pleasant surprise) to see him at the February board meeting. He has been interested in this club for a long time, even serving as president a couple years ago inbetween WBØHCK and KØTER. In fact, he started teaching a novice class for the club when there were no classes being run--and he was a novice at the time.

His interest in radio and radio broadcasting began in New York as a DJ in college. At that time he put his efforts toward a General ticket, but got side-tracked before it was reached. That cycle was repeated a couple times as he served in the Air Force teaching electronics and later working in broadcasting again as a civilian.

Finally deciding to settle for a Novice license, he got it in 1972 and put it to use with an Eico 753 (also known as the Seven-Drifty-Three). And when his job took him out on the road, he took the rig along to put some life into the nights spent at dreary motels along the way. He traded the Novice for a Tech license, and then took two meters along.

Seems he's spent a lot of time on the road--and probably done more operating from a car seat than an armchair--"Front seat copy, OM." Most recently, as a traveling school photographer, he was wearing out the roads through most of the southwest. But lo and behold, the FCC decided to let Techs operate the Novice bands and the way was cleared for him to get the practice he needed and escape from the Technician Sandbar. Armed with an SB-102 and a key wedged against the parking brake, it didn't take him long to bring his code speed up and drive back one day as an Advanced. (Con'd next page.)

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ALL SALE ITEMS SUBJECT TO PRIOR SALE.

I SHOULDN'T con'd: His house abounds with evidences of many hobbies and talents--music, writing, photography, carpentry... But of course the one I know him best for is radio. His station is an unusual collection of equipment--all either home made or modified to suit--and covering most every band known to ham and some inbetween. And his wall-to-wall junk box (the only kind to have) attests to his desire to hake ham radio a hobby of his own--to do it his way, at his own pace, in his own time, and for his own reasons. And to meet Bill Croghan WBØKSW on the air or in person, is to know that his biggest reason for being a ham is you and me--is all the people he's met, helped, and spent time with--changing a long, lonely road into an exciting time with new friends, being with old friends for Field Day and everything else we do together.

Thanks, Bill, for your energy and devotion to us. May you always be "Kind, Sweet William."

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